

longer to correct, a small business may get up to 100 percent of its fine waived if that same money is used to correct the violation.

I'm proud to have succeeded in putting more teeth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). Under the 1980 Act, Federal Government agencies must analyze their proposed regulations for their effects on small firms—and revise them if they will create an unfair burden. In the past, however, because the agencies' analyses could not be reviewed in the courts, small businesses had no meaningful recourse if an agency made a poor decision. On March 29, I signed into law the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, which allows for judicial review of Federal agency RFA analyses. The Act also emphasizes compliance assistance and requires agencies to provide small businesses with simple and clear guidelines to assist them in complying with the regulations that affect them.

As small business owners have told us, they care about environmental protection and occupational safety; after all, they drink the same water, breathe the same air, and share the same workplace hazards as everyone else. My Administration has challenged small businesses and regulatory agencies to find cheaper, more efficient ways than government regulation to meet the high environmental and workplace standards Americans want.

#### OPENING MARKETS AND EXPANDING TRADE

Every year the Federal Government spends \$200 billion on goods and services, and small businesses receive a substantial share of that market. I am committed to expanding further the opportunities for small businesses to win Federal contracts. I fought for the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 and the Federal Acquisition Reform Act of 1996, which have simplified the procurement process and made it easier for small firms to do business with the Federal Government.

The 1994 law also created a new Government-wide electronic commerce system, FACNET, which will eventually permit electronic submission of bids and proposals. I encourage small businesses to take advantage of these new procurement procedures to provide more goods and services to the Government.

In addition to the Federal marketplace, foreign markets offer significant opportunities for small business owners to compete and win. While the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) are opening markets abroad, my Administration's National Export Strategy had made it easier here at home for small businesses to export. Among other things, we've opened 14 U.S. Export Assistance Centers to provide one-stop access to export information, marketing assistance, and finance.

#### TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Technological innovation by small firms is a major reason for America's

leadership in the world economy. Through the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, the Federal Government taps into the brain power of small businesses to meet its own research needs. In the process, these programs help spur technological innovation to foster new businesses and jobs.

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program alone has nearly doubled awards to small businesses during my Administration—up from \$508 in 1992 to more than \$900 million in 1995. And the quality of SBIR research proposals has kept pace with the program's expansion.

We've also dramatically expanded the Manufacturing Extension Partnership to help America's 380,000 smaller manufacturers become more competitive in world markets. Sixty locally managed manufacturing extension centers—up from seven in 1993—are delivering much-needed services to this important small business sector.

As this report documents, changes are coming at lightning speed. Small business owners recognize that they will need all the technological skill and "connectivity" they can muster just to keep up. Through manufacturing extension centers, FACNET, the U.S. Business Advisor, and other information networks, we can help make available the information small businesses need to start up and succeed.

#### THE HUMAN FACTOR

If the heart of our entrepreneurial economy is small business, then the heart of small business is its people—small business owners and their employees. We need to work with small businesses to strengthen and support this dynamic human resource.

We've seen what business growth can do for communities, and we hope to encourage more business formation in empowerment zones and enterprise communities: legislation before the Congress would provide more tax incentives and waivers of some regulatory requirements in these areas. SBA's one-stop capital shops specifically target empowerment zones and enterprise communities.

As I mentioned earlier, we're taking steps to modify the tax code in ways that will make it easier for small businesses to offer health care and retirement plans to their employees. We also want to make sure that workers and their families can keep their health insurance even when they change jobs. I have urged the Congress to enact the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill, which would make health insurance coverage more "portable" for our Nation's workers.

We want to make better use of our work force training dollars by consolidating and streamlining many of our Federal work force training programs. Under our proposal, States and localities would have more flexibility to administer these programs in the way that will do the most good for our workers and small business owners.

I'm pleased that young entrepreneurs were represented at the White House Conference on Small Business and that the conference looked to our economic future by endorsing more mentorships and workplace educational opportunities for young people. These private-sector-led efforts form an essential part of the work-based learning program I envisioned when I signed into law the School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994.

It takes a great deal of courage to start something new, to carve a reality out of a dream, often with few resources, sometimes in adverse surroundings, and in an economy that demands much of its participants. That is why we celebrate and listen to America's small business owners and why we will continue to look for ways to nurture and support this powerful economic engine—the small business sector.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 5, 1996.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 234. An act to amend title 11 of the United States Code to make nondischargeable a debt for death or injury caused by the debtor's operation of watercraft or aircraft while intoxicated.

H.R. 2650. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate certain sentencing inequities for drug offenders.

H.R. 2977. An act to reauthorize alternative means of dispute resolution in the Federal administrative process, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3235. An act to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Office of Government Ethics for 3 years, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3376. An act to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1997, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it request the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 181. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture should dispose of all remaining commodities in the disaster reserve maintained under the Agricultural Act of 1970 to relieve the distress of livestock producers whose ability to maintain livestock is adversely affected by disaster conditions existing in certain areas of the United States, such as prolonged drought or flooding.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill (S. 1136) to control and prevent commercial counterfeiting, and for other purposes, with an amendment; the House insists upon its amendment, and asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. HYDE, Mr.

MOORHEAD, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CONYERS, and Mrs. SCHROEDER as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

At 6:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1861. An act to make technical corrections in the Satellite Home Viewer Act of 1994 and other provisions of title 17, United States Code.

### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 234. An act to amend title 11 of the United States Code to make nondischargeable a debt for death or injury caused by the debtor's operation of watercraft or aircraft while intoxicated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2650. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate certain sentencing inequities for drug offenders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3376. An act to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1997, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2977. An act to reauthorize alternative means of dispute resolution in the Federal administrative process, and for other purposes.

The following measure was read and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 181. A concurrent resolution expressing the Sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture should dispose of all remaining commodities in the disaster reserve maintained under the Agricultural Act of 1970 to relieve the distress of livestock producers whose ability to maintain livestock is adversely affected by disaster conditions existing in certain areas of the United States, such as prolonged drought or flooding.

### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2831. A communication from the Director Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of technical amendments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2832. A communication from the Chairperson of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1996"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2833. A communication from the Agency Freedom of Information Officer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2834. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Policy Development, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of final guidelines entitled "Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act" (RIN1105-AA36), received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2835. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2836. A communication from the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2837. A communication from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule entitled "Certification of Designated Fingerprinting Services" (RIN1115-AD75), received on May 29, 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2838. A communication from the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule entitled "Special Food or Meals" (RIN1120-AA37), received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2839. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of five interim and final rules relative to Low-Income Public Housing Performance Funding System (FR 3760, 3514, 3887, 3718, 3919); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2841. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Land and Minerals Management), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to flaring or venting gas and burning liquid hydrocarbons, (RIN1010-AB96) received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2842. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2843. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Indian Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the American Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994, (RIN1076-AD28) received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2844. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Youth Conservation Corps for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2845. A communication from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule relative to subsistence management regulations for public lands in Alaska (RIN1018-AC82); to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2847. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Compliance, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Man-

agement Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2848. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Compliance, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2849. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule concerning the Oregon Caves National Monument, (RIN1024-AC26) received on May 30, 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2850. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule entitled "The Glacier Bay Vessel Management Plan Regulations, (RIN1024-AC05) received on May 30, 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2851. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule entitled "Acquisition Regulation," (RIN1991-AB27) received on May 23, 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2852. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule entitled "Contractor Litigation Cost Policies," received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2853. A communication from the Director of the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of four rules entitled "The Indiana Regulatory Program," (IN132FOR, TX029FOR, IN133FOR, HO003FOR) received on May 23, 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2854. A communication from the Director of the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of twelve rules entitled "The Indiana Regulatory Program," (IN132FOR, TX029FOR, IN133FOR, HO003FOR, MO025FOR, MO026FOR, OK015FOR, IN112FOR, NM036FOR, CO029FOR, VA105, IL089FOR) received on May 22, 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2855. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy, Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule concerning Propylene Glycol, received on May 21, 1996; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2856. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule entitled "Personal Protective Equipment in Shipyards," (1218-AA74) received on May 22, 1996; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2857. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy, Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule concerning drug products, (RIN0910-AA01) received on May 23, 1996; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2858. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant